



Town of Boxford

7A Spofford Road
Boxford, Massachusetts
01921
Health Department

DATE: August 23, 2019

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus Confirmed in Mosquito pool from Boxford

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) today informed the Town of Boxford Health Department that Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in a mosquito sample from Boxford, Massachusetts. This is the first positive EEE detection in Boxford since 2017.

This notice is being provided, as per the "Boxford Board of Health Protocol Response to Positive Mosquito Borne Virus Finding in Boxford", that the Boxford Board of Health:

Has issued an order for all playing/ball fields to be closed, outdoor recess and outdoor sports at schools be canceled until barrier spraying has occurred and post-spray the waiting period has passed.

Will authorize NEMMC to spray all public fields and school yards for mosquitoes as soon as notification and weather will permit.

Residents are urged to protect themselves and children from mosquito bites, please see the below websites for additional information. Also residents are urged to empty any standing pools of water on their property.
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/mosquito-borne-disease-information-for-the-general-public>
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eee-eastern-equine-encephalitis>

EEE is a rare but serious illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. While EEE can infect people of all ages, people under 15 years of age or over 50 years of age are at greatest risk for serious illness.

By taking a few, common-sense precautions, people can help to protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up and/or wearing repellent.
- Clothing Can Help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- Drain Standing Water – Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Install or Repair Screens - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.